

The Address—Mr. Tupper

grow as fast as the rate of inflation. With such a low rate of inflation I do not know how he can go so far as to say that we slashed the family allowance. Those are my comments.

Mr. Hovdebo: Mr. Speaker, I will deal first with the subject of the family allowance since that was the Hon. Member's last point. I know what the Government did to the family allowance. I know that the payments did not go down, and I accept that. However, they are now less than they would have been if the Government had allowed the law which was in place to stay in place. What is the difference if the price of bread goes up and a person dependent on the family allowance to buy food for the family does not receive an increase in his or her family allowance? There is no difference between the family allowance not being increased and buying bread that costs more. I am suggesting that what the Government did is the same as cutting the family allowance. The rhetoric that is used to defend the move is just that. It is rhetoric that affects poor families in the same way as if their family allowances had been cut.

As far as agriculture is concerned, we need a global policy on agriculture. The Government seems incapable of looking at agriculture as a whole. Stabilization policies are the taking over of problems that do not solve the problems concerning farm economies.

Mr. Hawkes: Mr. Speaker, I would feel more comfortable with the remarks of the Hon. Member for Prince Albert (Mr. Hovdebo) if he had mentioned the child tax credit and its delivery to the poorest sector of the Canadian economy when he talked about family allowance. The two matters are tied together. I am comfortable with our Government's attempts to provide money to those who need it most in our society, particularly when we spend so much on the interest payments on debt which was run up by the previous Government supported by the New Democratic Party back in 1972-73. They created the problem and we are doing our best to solve it as quickly as we can. We would appreciate a little support in that regard.

Can the Hon. Member tell us how many embassies and consulates we have in the United States? Can he tell us how many Canadians are working on behalf of Canadian agriculture in those embassies and consulates? Is it 100, 200, or 300? I would not want the Hon. Member to leave the impression with the House that we are not putting some resources into our relationship with the Americans in terms of agriculture.

Mr. Hovdebo: Mr. Speaker, I am sure the Hon. Member does not expect me to be able to answer such a detailed question. However, I want to make the point that the child tax credit was taken up as a result of the direct taxes levied at almost the same time. In effect, it was given with one hand and taken away with the other before it could be used to feed those who need it.

Mr. Bill Tupper (Nepean—Carleton): Mr. Speaker, I am delighted on behalf of my constituents of Nepean—Carleton to

rise in the Chamber this afternoon and to share with you and with my colleagues in the House of Commons some of my concerns and remarks regarding the Speech from the Throne.

If we look back to 1984 when we as a Government delivered our first Speech from the Throne, we find that we had four cornerstones at that time. They were economic renewal, national reconciliation, social justice and constructive internationalism. I think the Government now recognizes, as do most Canadians, that those goals are within our reach. If we as a Government can achieve those goals in the course of our mandate, then we will have done well by Canadians and by our great country. When reading the Speech from the Throne, one always asks oneself, perhaps selfishly at first, how the material in the Speech impacts upon one's constituents. Then, of course, one asks oneself how it impacts upon Canadians.

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As I read the Speech from the Throne, and particularly those aspects that relate to environmental protection, programs for veterans, programs that will affect the Canadian family and child care, elevating the importance of volunteerism, establishing our sovereignty in the Arctic, enhancing the National Capital Commission, placing new emphasis on research and on science and technology, placing new emphasis on our post-secondary processes of education and research, and moving through the world with peace and justice as priorities, I found a great deal for my constituents.

You have been in this House for some time, Mr. Speaker. Two of my predecessors, the late Hon. Walter Baker and the Hon. Mr. Bell were colleagues of yours. They served the House with grace, strength and sincerity and with productivity. Prior to them, there were other great parliamentarians representing my riding, including George Drew, the Hon. R. L. Borden and, before him, of course, Sir John A. Macdonald. Over the years since Confederation, my constituency has been very well served in this House. I am proud to be a part of that tradition and a part of the present Government so that I may carry on with enhancing my community and enhancing Canada in some small way.

Going back to the time of Macdonald, the part of Carleton County which includes Nepean—Carleton was then totally an agricultural community. In the days since, it has progressed from an agricultural and bedroom community to a dynamic mixture of rural and urban. Now the riding contains some 135,000 people but, more important, there are about 36,000 people who work in that constituency. There are about 1,900 small companies at work in the riding, the largest of them being that tandem of Bell Northern and Northern Telecom. Those two companies employ between them nearly 5,000 people.

Within the framework of the small business community, there is, in addition to the figures I already mentioned, about 3,200 farm units, about 1,000 of which are operated by full-time farmers. These farms have a gross annual income of about \$27 million. Of the farming community, those who are